



Also Serving – Interior Logging Association (ph 250-503-2199) & North West Loggers Association (ph 250-635-6801)

Issue # 543 Week of January 4, 2010

CILA Board Meeting

The CILA's Board of Directors will meet in Prince George at 10 a.m. Jan. 15 (next Friday) at the Railway & Forestry Museum Boardroom.

Many critical and current issues are on the table; Peter Lineen, COO of the BC Forest Safety Council, will be presenting coming changes to SAFE Companies processes in response to the CILA's letter to the Safety Council Board in December.

All CILA members are welcome to attend, but please RSVP so we can order enough lunch. If you'd like to attend, call 1-877-562-5668 or 250-562-3368, or email ellys@cila.ca

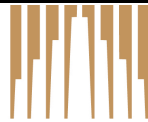
FNs want timber, funds

The B.C. First Nations Forestry Council wants the province to get moving on creating more long term, area-based First Nations forest tenures and sharing timber revenue – both recommended in the forestry roundtable report issued last spring.

The council wants a meeting with Forests Minister Pat Bell to discuss its concerns. The government says it has already enhanced First Nations forestry involvement with 168 five-year forestry agreements totalling 44 million cubic metres of timber and \$243 million in revenue sharing.

CILA renews in the mail

We sent out our 2010 Membership packages early this week, so keep your eye out for them. There's lots of information highlighting the many new services and benefits the CILA offers, and more exciting news on our affinity programs will follow soon. If members take advantage of even just a few of the benefits, they'll have recouped their dues and then some – so think of it as an investment you can't afford not to make! For a package, please call MaryAnne at 250-562-3368.



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CILA truckers meet Saturday

A meeting for CILA members with trucks goes Saturday morning, 8 to 11 a.m., at the Tower Inn, Quesnel. We'll be discussing issues and actions directly affecting our members with trucks. Chuck Carter, the new TruckSafe person, will be in attendance for the first part, so you can give him your input on trucking safety concerns.

Natural Resources Forum next week

Forest Minister Pat Bell's annual Natural Resources Forum runs Wednesday and Thursday next week in Prince George. Topics include forestry, silviculture, bio-energy, mining, oil & gas, and the emerging carbon market. CILA Executive Directors MaryAnne and Roy will be there making connections and getting the latest information about new opportunities for loggers, truckers and suppliers in our sector over the next couple of years.

Around the industry

Canfors production curtailment at its Quesnel sawmill is linked to market demand and the economics of running the plant. Effective this week, about 120 loggers and truckers were put out of work, and by Jan. 18, 180 mill workers will also be laid off.



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Canfor spokesman Dave Lefebvre explained curtailment isn't the same as an indefinite closure. "With an indefinite closure the company runs the logs out of the mill and severs staff. With curtailment, we maintain logs and staff, allowing a quicker restart and the expectation is it will be shorter than an indefinite closure."

Sawmill operations began this week at the Conifex sawmill in Fort St. James. It's one shift for now, with 100 workers on the job, and when the planer mill starts in about three weeks, 35 more start work.

Tolko will take two more weeks of down time at its Soda Creek (Williams Lake) and Armstrong stud mill divisions. The company went into two-week holiday curtailment on Dec. 19, and extended that by another week. This announcement means a five-week loss of work for loggers, truckers and mill employees.

Training funds still available

The CILA still has training funds available for at least 20 more participants, so start thinking about upgrading your skills or certificates during breakup.

Funding is on a first come, first served basis, so get your application in as soon as possible, even if you don't want to take any courses until later this spring. You must be self-employed, not eligible for employment insurance, have worked in the forest industry and want to remain in the industry.

You can take courses from the list the CILA has provided, or suggest courses that you think would best help you be more employable and viable in the industry of the future. We currently have contractors taking project management, computer skills, the Provincial Instructor Diploma, First Aid, Transportation of Dangerous Goods, Class 1 Driver, welding, and much more. If you're eligible or interested, please call MaryAnne at 1-877-562-5668 or email maryanne@cila.ca. At this point, funding is only available to contractors in the Cariboo, Northeast, Northwest, and Coast.
